REMARKS

Applicant has rewritten claims 1 and 7, and cancelled claims 3 and 10, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 3, 4, 6 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs. Claims 1 and 7 were rewritten to overcome these rejections.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the article Im et al., "Single-crystal Si films for thin-film transistor devices," Applied Physics Letters 70 (25) 23 June 1997, pp. 3434-3436 in view of Hennings, U.S. Patent No. 3,712,740, and Makita, U.S. Patent No. 5,821,562.

Independent claims 1 and 7 provide that an alignment mark corresponding to an alignment mark pattern on the optimal mask is formed **solely** by irradiation.

This feature is nowhere disclosed, taught or suggested by Im et al., Hennings or Makita singly or in combination. Specifically, even Makita which, according to the Examiner, teaches a method of forming an alignment mark from an alignment mark pattern on a mask requires the use of **both** catalyst elements and irradiation to form the alignment mark, (column 26, line 23, to column 27, line 38).
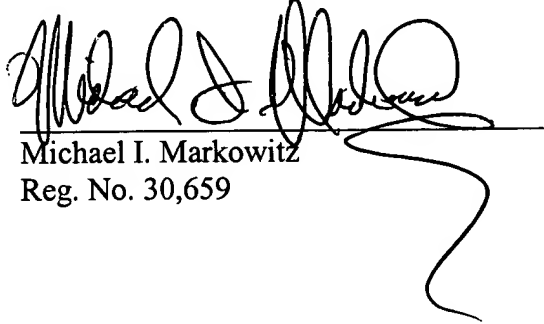
CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that independent claims 1 and 7 are in condition for allowance, as well as the claims dependent therefrom. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited.

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However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper, not fully covered by an enclosed check, may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael I. Markowitz
Reg. No. 30,659

KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN
575 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
(212) 940-8729
DOCKET NO.: NECK 17.522 (100806–17282)
MIM:lh:NECK17.522-2
CUSTOMER NO.: 026304